

Mission Statement

"The West Hartford Human Rights Commission fosters mutual understanding and respect among people, and encourages equality of treatment of all people, regardless of race, color, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, civil union status, gender identity or expression, marital status, familial status, genetic information, age, economic status, lawful source of income, national origin or ancestry, or present or past history of physical, mental, intellectual or learning disability including, but not limited to blindness."

TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, September 1, 2015

Room 400

MINUTES

Attendance: Members—Krishna Adhikari, Judy Borden (Chair), Charles Cleary, Helga Gordon, Judy Wyman Kelly (Secretary), Margaret Liu, Karyl Shaughnessy, and Barry Walters.

- **Welcome new member, Barry Walters.**
- **Minutes:** It was moved (Krishna) and seconded (Judy K) that the 7.7.15 meeting minutes be approved with no changes. The vote passed unanimously.
- **Training/Retreat:**
 - a. Since there is no money to hire professional facilitators for a team-building training session, the group decided to hold occasional potluck dinners instead.
- **Future events:**
 - a. **Park Rd Parade, Saturday, October 3.**
 - i. Margaret and Judy K. have been in contact with Hall and Conard to recruit students and staff to make posters and march in the parade. Most Commissioners are available to march this year. Judy K. will be in touch with meet-up details when she gets information from the town.
 - b. **International Human Rights Day.**
 - i. Judy K. will follow up with school administration to make sure they are on board again this year. Commission will discuss further at November meeting.
 - c. **One Book One Town.**
 - i. Judy K. reported on an initiative by WH Barnes & Noble, and in cooperation with the town, to organize a One Book One Town program. The WHHRC has been invited to participate. The book selection is *Outcastes United*, based on a true story about a soccer team of immigrants and refugees in Georgia. There will be a kick-off in October, events over the winter, and then an author talk in April. More details to follow.

- **Communications:**
 - **Brochures:** Judy B asked about brochures in English and in translation for newcomers. Krishna will follow up with Pramod. The group also discussed having information available on where to file grievances about human rights violations (CT Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities: <<http://www.ct.gov/chro/site/default.asp?>>)
 - **Twitter:** Twitter account is up, but maybe we need to change the account name. Judy K and Chuck C will follow up.
- **Mission Statement:** group discussed shortening the mission statement. It was decided that members would email written suggestions to the whole group and then discuss again at the November meeting.
- **WH Community Connections:** This is an initiative that consists of conversation circles of WH residents from different neighborhoods. Judy B. will continue to attend and invited other Commissioners to go with her.
- **Announcements:**
 - Peace Week Festival in Windsor
 - Charter for Compassion/Cities of Compassion: Chuck C. introduced this concept to the group and asked that everyone check out the website in advance of the November meeting: (<<http://charterforcompassion.org/>>). Two cities in CT, Danbury and Milford, have already signed the charter.
- **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.
- **Next meeting:** Tuesday, November 10, 2015, 7 pm, Town Hall, room 400.

Minutes submitted by Judy Wyman Kelly